

LIBERTY CALL

The Frugal
Sightseers
Guide to

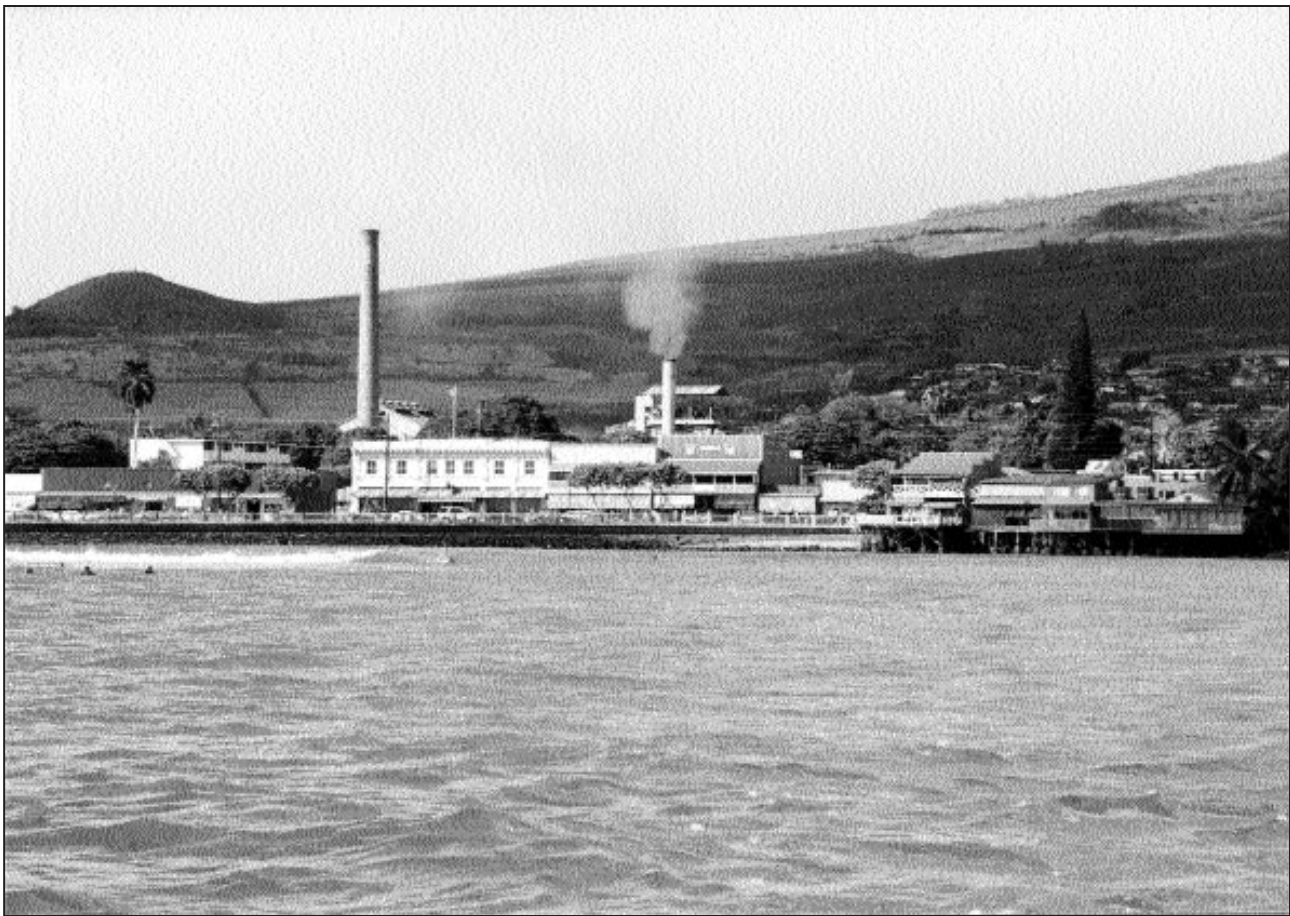
HISTORIC LAHAINA



A family of sightseers (top) views the remains of the fort on the canal. The fort was built of coral blocks in 1831, after whalers fired cannons at the missionary compound, angered over a law forbidding local women to swim out to greet ships.

Lahaina (left) offers a blend of 19th century landmarks and architecture with modern shops and restaurants.

The lighthouse on Lahaina Harbor, built in 1840, is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse in the Pacific.



Lahaina's Banyan tree (above) is one of the largest in the world. Standing more than 50 feet tall, it stretches out over a 200-foot area, shading two-thirds of an acre. The Banyan tree is center for many events, including a weekly arts and crafts fair, where local artisans (above, right) display their goods.

The Baldwin House (right), built in 1834, is the oldest standing structure in Lahaina. It was home to missionary-physician Dwight Baldwin and also served as a medical office, seamen's chapel and center for missionary activity.



By JO1 David Nagle
NAVY REGION HAWAII

Blending 19th century landmarks with modern day shops and restaurants, the town of Lahaina offers visitors to Maui a wide variety of things to see and do.

For the frugal sightseer and the history buff, Lahaina Town offers the opportunity to explore a part of Hawaii's rich past.

Lahaina Town's literal translation is "merciless sun," but don't let the name keep you away. For hundreds of years, Lahaina was the chosen area of Hawaiian royalty. The whole town is considered a National Historic Landmark. The Lahaina Historical Foundation refurbishes and restores old landmarks and buildings that span three periods of history - traditional native Hawaiian, the missionary-whaler years and the early 20th century plantation era. You can enjoy exploring Lahaina's historical sites, all within walking distance at little to no cost. Set aside about 1-2 hours and the frugal sightseer can get through most of historic Lahaina.

The first stop is the Baldwin House, the oldest standing structure in Lahaina. Built in 1834, it served as home to missionary and Harvard-trained physician Rev. Dwight Baldwin and his family. Baldwin, a native of Durham Conn., sailed from New England to Hawaii in 1830, and was assigned as pastor of Lahaina's Wainee Church. His home also served as a medical office, seamen's chapel and a center for missionary activity.

Across the street from the Baldwin House is Lahaina Harbor and the Carthaginian, a replica of a 19th century brig. The Carthaginian is typical of the small, fast freighters that brought the first commerce to the Hawaiian Islands. It is also the only authentically restored brig in the world. The Carthaginian features a whale exhibit and an original whale-boat.

Also in the harbor is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse in the Pacific, built in 1840 by King Kamehameha to aid the many whaling ships visiting Maui. Turning around, the frugal sightseer finds the Pioneer Inn, built in 1901 by a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman who came to Lahaina while tracking a notorious criminal. For many years, the Pioneer Inn was the only hotel in west Maui.

A few steps from the inn bring the frugal sightseer to one of the world's largest Banyan trees. Brought from India when it was only 8 feet tall with one trunk, Maui sheriff William Smith planted it in 1873 at a service to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Lahaina's first Christian mission. As Lahaina grew, the little tree grew, and grew, and grew. Today, it is more than 50 feet tall with 12 major trunks. The tree provides a park-like setting with plenty of shade and branches to climb. It is also a center for many festivities and events, including an arts and crafts fair every weekend.

Strolling through town, the frugal sightseer can also explore the old courthouse, the Wainee Church and cemetery, the fort on the canal, the old prison, the home of David Malo, the first renowned Hawaiian scholar and philosopher, the Wo Hing Temple and the U.S. Seamen's Hospital. These are just a few of the many historical sites the frugal sightseer can find in Lahaina. Guidebooks and pamphlets detailing Lahaina's historic and cultural sites are available at locations throughout town.

So, if you're visiting Maui and looking for an educational and inexpensive afternoon of sight-seeing, lace up your walking shoes and hit the history trail in Lahaina Town. For more information, contact the Lahaina Restoration Foundation at (808) 661-3262.

PHOTOS BY JO1 DAVID NAGLE